



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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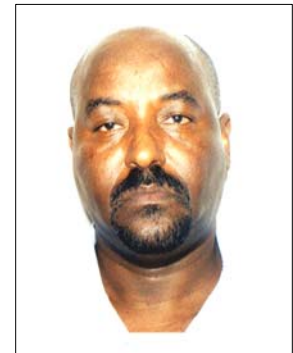
News Release

ICE DEPORTS 38 ALIENS THIS WEEK FROM FIVE-STATE AREA

Man who impregnated 13-year-old is returned to Eritrea

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — A convicted criminal alien who impregnated a 13-year-old girl was among 38 aliens deported this week from the five-state jurisdictional area covered by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) office in Bloomington, Minn.

Fisaye Tafla, 48, was deported to Eritrea escorted by ICE officers. Tafla, who had been a permanent resident of the U.S., was convicted of first-degree criminal sexual conduct in May 1993 in Anoka County District Court after he impregnated a 13-year-old relative while living in Coon Rapids, Minn. The conviction resulted in him losing his right to remain in the U.S. Tafla's flight arrived in Asmara, Eritrea, about 10:30 p.m. Wednesday evening (1:30 p.m. Minnesota time).



Fisaye Tafla

Thirty-seven of those deported this week were returned to Mexico yesterday afternoon. Of that number, 29 had criminal convictions including: assault, theft, second-degree murder, assault on a law enforcement officer, alien smuggling and burglary. The remaining seven had committed administrative immigration law violations.

"Our goal is to ensure that the United States isn't a haven for criminal aliens," said Field Office Director Scott Baniecke, who leads ICE's detention and removal efforts in Bloomington. "ICE remains committed to ridding our communities of violent criminal aliens who live in our midst." Baniecke oversees the program for a five-state area including: Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska.

In addition to using buses when practical, ICE carries out deportations using both commercial and government aircraft. The government's aircraft is run by the U.S. Marshal Service, and is called the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world and handles hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners and illegal aliens nationally and internationally. There is an automatic 10-year bar against deported aliens from legally re-entering the U.S.

Twenty-one of the 38 aliens deported this week departed from the Twin Cities, Minn. Seventeen flew via JPATS from Omaha, Neb. In addition to the 38, five Guatemalan nationals were transferred to an ICE detention facility in Oakdale, La., in preparation for their deportation to Guatemala this week.

During fiscal year 2005, which ended Sept. 30, ICE deported more than 3,000 aliens from the five-state area. Of that number, more than 1,300 had criminal convictions. The remaining were immigration status violators.

NOTE: For a JPEG digital image file of Fisaye Tafla, please contact Tim Counts at 952-853-2602 or via e-mail at Tim.Counts@dhs.gov.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.